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TO: USDA/AMS

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DATE AND TIME: 12, 19, 02 8:00 AM ~~PM~~

IF A PROBLEM OCCURS WITH THIS TRANSMISSION, PLEASE CALL
APPROPRIATE NUMBERS CHECKED OFF ABOVE....THANK YOU!

Letter to Livestock & Seed Program

San Luis Obispo County Cattlemens Association
P.O. Box 302
Paso Robles, CA. 93446

December 19, 2002

Livestock and Seed Programs
Agriculture Marketing Service
U. S. Dept. of Agriculture
Stop 0249, Rm. #2092-S
Washington, DC 20250-0249

Gentlemen:

The San Luis Obispo County Cattlemens Association, consisting of over three hundred cattle producers in San Luis Obispo County California, urges the use of irradiated food in the National School Lunch Program.

Many of our members remember the consternation and confusion that existed when pasteurization was introduced for milk. Irradiation will do for ground beef and other foods what pasteurization has done for the dairy industry.

The beef industry, from producers to processors, continue to exhaust every known method to reduce pathogens from its product. Irradiation of ground beef, specifically, is one of the most important tools available to the industry as an additional step to make our food safer.

We thank you in advance for your consideration in helping us to stop the spread of disease in our foods by utilization of irradiation.

Sincerely,



Patrick Molnar

President

San Luis Obispo County Cattlemens Assn.

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